

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASDC 6579

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 22479

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, FR

SUBJ: CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONSULTATIONS WITH FRANCE

REF: STATE 177302

1. MISTRAL EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION FOUR US THOUGHTFULNESS IN OFFERING HIM BRIEFING ON FOURTH ROUND OF US-USSR CW CONSULTATIONS, WHICH WE DELIVERED AUGUST 4. IN VIEW OF "PARTICULAR" FRENCH INTEREST THIS ISSUE.

2. ON SUBSTANCE, MISTRAL THOUGHT THAT CARE US IS DEVOTING TO TWIN ISSUES OF SCOPE OF CW CONVENTION AND OF VERIFICATION COINCIDED PRECISELY WITH FRENCH PERCEPTIONS. ON QUESTION OF SCOPE, THE ESSENTIAL FRENCH INTEREST WILL BE TO ASSURE THAT ALL LETHAL AGENTS BE COVERED IN THE TEXT. BEYOND THAT, MISTRAL EXPECTS THAT FRENCH WILL BE LESS CONCERNED THAN WE ABOUT DEFINITION OF SECOND THRESHOLD FOR SUPER TOXIC AGENTS.

3. ON THER HAND, MISTRAL PLACED GREAT STRESS ON IMPORTANCE GOF ATTACHES TO SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF
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THE VERIFICATION QUESTOION. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, SINCE OFFICIAL POSITIONS NOT YET FORMALLY DEFINED, MISTRAL SAID THAT HE IS CERTAIN FRENCH WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL MEANS: (A) BECAUSE THEY QUESTION EFFICACY OF THESE MEANS IN THE CW FIELD: AND (B)(BECAUSE THIS WOULD ENTRUST CW VERIFICATION TO THE TWO SUPER POWERS AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT GIVE ALL

SIGNATORY COUNTRIES "EQUAL CONTROL." HE THERE FORE EXPECTS FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN CW CONVENTION WILL BE CONTINGENT ON AGREEMENT TO AN "INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF CONTROLS" IN WHICH ALL SIGNATORIES WOULD PARTICIPATE ON AN EQUAL BASIS. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON WHAT KIND OF SYSTEM HE ENVISAGED OR THE KIND OF INTERNATIONAL CNTROLS FRENCH THEMSELVES MIGHT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT, BUT EMPHASIZED AGAIN THAT PRECISE FRENCH VIEWS HAVE NOT YET BEEN FORMED.

4. MISTRAL WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED TO KNOW WHETHER, IN VIEW OF PROGRESS MADE, WE NOW EXPECTED A JOINT DRAFT CW CONVENTION WOULD BE READY FOR SUBMISSION TO THE NEXT CCD. EMBOFF REPLIED ALONG LINES PARA 3 OF REFTEL THAT BILATERALS WOULD RESUME AUGUST 16, WOULD PROBABLY BE INTENSIVE, BUT THAT WE COULD OBVIOUSLY NOT YET FORESEE FINAL RESULTS.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

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